

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SNM-02 L-01
TRSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 /036 W
-----104862 090132Z /73

R 081441Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1458
INFO DEA HQS WASH DC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6325

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, GR, US
SUBJECT: GOG-DEA COOPERATION

1. THE DCM, ACCOMPANIED BY THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, CALLED ON MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER GEORGIOS STAMATIS JULY 8. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DEVELOP, IF POSSIBLE, A BROAD MANDATE UNDER WHICH DEA PERSONNEL CAN ENTER GREECE AND WORK WITH THEIR GREEK POLICE COUNTERPARTS. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE HAD TO FOLLOW A SOMEWHAT CUMBERSOME PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE EMBASSY TO APPROACH THE GREEK MFA ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BEFORE DEA AGENTS COULD WORK IN GREECE.

2. IN TODAY'S CONVERSATION WE OBTAINED FROM STAMATIS HIS APPROVAL FOR JOINT EFFORTS IN GREECE BY THE GREEK POLICE AND DEA. STAMATIS, WHO WAS EXTREMELY FORTHCOMING, UNDERTOOK TO INFORM MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BITSIOS OF THIS CONTINUING COOPERATION AND ASSURED US THAT BITSIOS WOULD AGREE TO IT.

3. STAMATIS WAS AWARE OF THE BENEFITS TO GREECE OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN DEA AND THE GREEK POLICE, AND STRESSED HIS
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DETERMINATION TO SEE THAT IT CONTINUED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTS ALL DEA PERSONNEL TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE AGENCIES UNDER HIS CONTROL AND NOT INDEPENDENTLY OF THEM. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE THAT THE GENERAL TERMS OF THIS COOPERATION BETWEEN DEA PERSONNEL AND GREEK POLICE, AS WELL AS SPECIFIC CASES, BE CLOSELY HELD TO PREVENT COMPROMISING THE RELATIONSHIP. THE DCM REASSURED HIM

ON BOTH OF THESE POINTS.

4. COMMENT: WE NOW HAVE THE KIND OF GENERAL AUTHORITY WE WERE
LOOKING FOR TO UNDERLIE OUR COOPERATION WITH GREEK AUTHORITIES.
WE WILL WANT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO ABUSE IT OR THE TERMS UNDER
WHICH IT WAS OFFERED.

5. ALSO, WE WOULD NOTE THAT STAMATIS' MINISTERIAL MANDATE DOES
NOT EXTEND TO EITHER THE GREEK CUSTOMS SERVICE OR THE GREEK
COAST GUARD, BOTH OF WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS MATTERS.
THUS, WE REMAIN ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS WHEN ENGAGING IN COOPERATION
WITH THEM ON GREEK TERRITORY. HOPEFULLY, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME
-- AND IDEALLY BEHIND A SPECIFIC CASE AS IN THIS INSTANCE
WITH STAMATIS -- WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A SIMILAR MANDATE
WITH THEM.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS06325
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770244-0075
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770780/aaaacral.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9cf4146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1930087
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOG-DEA COOPERATION
TAGS: SNAR, GR, US, (STAMATIS, GEORGIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9cf4146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009